



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Lisa Deller
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Board Members Present

Amparo Abel-Bey
Czarinna Andres
Anatole Ashraf
Diane Ballek
Thalia (Karesia) Batan
Nicholas Berkowitz
Sandra Bigitschke
Bessie Cassaro
Tannia Chavez
Osman Chowdhury
Stephen Cooper
Warren Davis
Jake DeGroot
Lisa Deller
Sally Frank
Morry Galonoy
William Garrett
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann

Christine Hunter
Badrun Khan
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski
Kristen McGowan
Taina McShane
Thomas Mituzas
Dorothy Morehead
Clara Oza
Bianca Ozeri
Steven Raga
Norberto Saldana
Lauren Springer
Mary Torres
Adrienne Verrilli
Julie Won
Frank Wu

Board Members Absent

Mohammed Choudhury Jewel
Dominic Lippolis
Patrick Murray
Patrick O'Brien
Elliot Park

Regina Shanley
Rebecca Trent
Anthony Tudela
John Vaichunas

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

NYC Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Elected Officials/Representative

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member
Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Tiffany Hurtado, Representing Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
Kat Brezler, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Joe Nocerino, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Jessica Schabowski, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs
Ben Geremia, Representing Council Member Robert Holden
Ahtzeri Campos, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Guests

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services
Justin Green, Big Reuse
Gil Lopez, Big Reuse
Ray Webb, LIC BID

Ms. Deller welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the meeting was being teleconferenced.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Deller welcomed the following individuals:

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member

Assembly Member Barnwell provided the following update:

- Announced Property Tax Exemption taking place through March 15, 2021.
- Discussed DHCR forms (hardship forms).
- If anyone has any concerns, they may contact Assembly Member Barnwell's Office and leave a message at (718) 651-3185.
- Discussed the legislation that was passed on moratorium on rentals, mortgage payments, tax liens. The moratorium extends until May.

Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NY State Assembly Member Assembly

Member Rojas provided the following update and announced:

- their office is accessible and can communicate in English, Spanish and Bengali.
- they are sponsoring a Self-Swab Event in collaboration with NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, which will take place on February 9, 2021 and February 11, 2021.
- Introduced Tiffany Hurtado and announced that if anyone needs support to contact Tiffany.
- Discussed the Paycheck Protection Program, which will resume through March 31, 2021.

- Fall 2020 School Experience Survey is out, and they are asking constituents to provide feedback as February 5, 2021 is the deadline for submission.
- Sponsoring a Paper Shredding event which will take place on Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Jackson Heights shopping center.
- Discussed the bills that she has co-sponsored and some that have passed. NY Health Act, Coverage for All Bill, Capital Gains Tax, Rent Mortgage Cancellation Act, COVID 19 Emergency Protects Small Business Act, Repeal of the Walking Mall Trans Ban.
- If anyone has any concerns, they may contact the office at: (718) 457-0384.

Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas entertained questions. Morry Galonoy asked if these companies shred hard drives. Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas stated she will check with the company to see if they offer this and discussed the possibility of holding electronics recycling event in the future.

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's Office

Mr. Brooks provided the following update and announced:

- Congresswoman voted on the removal of Marjory Taylor Green from all her Committee assignments.
- Congresswoman Maloney attended the inauguration.
- Calling for certification of the ERA.
- Discussed the Paid Leave for Federal Employees Bill.
- Discussed the oversight investigation of the Parlor site.
- Congresswoman Maloney stood with workers at Hunts Point Food Market two weeks ago.
- Congresswoman joined with Ed Markey introducing the bill to fund research at CDC into gun violence.
- Congresswoman worked with the oversight committee introducing accountability and figuring out lessons learned from President Trump's child separation policy.
- Discussed the NYCHA Project Pilot program for skilled trades.
- Held a telephone town hall helping people on how to access the newest round of money voted in December for Small Businesses.
- Discussed the \$1.9 trillion dollar bill signed by the President.

Ms. Deller asked if he would be able to provide more information about Federal Rent Relief money that will flow through the states. Mr. Brooks stated this information may be on the website and would check.

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update and announced:

- Congresswoman will be hosting a virtual town hall on February 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm. She will be joined by representatives from the City and the State to discuss the COVID-19 vaccines roll out.
- Recordings of town halls are on You Tube page @repaco.
- Anyone interested in signing up for their Newsletter which is in both English and Spanish may do so by contacting their office.

- Discussed the Rent Relief with Representative Bowman and led 52 house members in a letter asking HUD and the Treasury to repeal the Trump era guidelines. They hope this letter will speed up the process.
- FEMA Funeral Relief Assistance will be available to constituents soon. Details will follow and roll out will be in the coming weeks. They will share this information with the Board when they have it.
- Their office is going to hire a Wounded Warrior Fellow, a fellowship program that will fund a Veteran for a two-year period with their team. The position pays \$52,000 with benefits and will be based out of their district offices in Queens and the Bronx. There is a list of eligibility requirements and if anyone knows of any Veterans who may be interested to contact their office.
- Congressional Art Competition, a nationwide art competition hosted by the Congressional Art Institute. This is open to high schoolers. Winners will be displayed in the Hall of the Capital building.
- Small Business Development Center at LaGuardia Community College which can assist with Small Business PPP and Idle applications. They have advisors that speak Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Bengali and Hindi.

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Bernatovicz provided the following update and announced:

- Their office is still closed, and staff is working remotely, however, they are available to help with issues and concerns.
- COVID-19 positivity rate is 8.6% in Woodside. Reminded everyone to keep social distancing, wear a mask and get tested and when eligible, to get vaccinated.
- Received notice from the DOT concerning the closure of the Queens Borough Bridge, southern outer roadway which will be a dedicated pedestrian walkway and the northern for bikes. Council Member Van Bramer has been fighting for this for the past 5 years long with advocates, residents and CB 2's Transportation Committee. Mr. Bernatovicz thanked everyone that was a part of this fight and looks forward to walking and biking across the bridge safely with everyone.
- Reported Bill 1116 was passed, expanding the number of street vendor permits and creating a Street Vendor Enforcement unit. The Bill would also create a Street Vendor Advisory Board, to oversee the enforcement of new permits, and examine and make recommendations pertaining to vending laws. This was a big win for immigrant food vendors and business owners, creating opportunities and support for work. Council Member Van Bramer has been a proud sponsor of this bill.
- The Council also passed legislation creating a Ranked Choice Voting Education Campaign that will prepare voters for upcoming elections.
- Passed a reform Tax Lien Sale which includes a COVID-19 exemption and the study of transferring property subject to a lien to community land trusts, land based and mutual housing associations. This is a step forward in correcting a policy with a long legacy of prioritizing profit over community. The Council Member is committed to working with advocates till the tax lien is abolished.

- Council Member Van Bramer thanks all the volunteers and leaders with the 39th Avenue Open Street for putting on a successful food drive. He was happy to support and give non-perishable food to those experiencing food insecurity.
- This month, Parks held a virtual community scoping meeting for Woodside Memorial Plaza. Mr. Bernatovicz thanked all who were able to participate. Parks is still collecting feedback online until February 19, 2021.
- Wished all a Happy Black History Month.

Ms. Deller thanked John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards who was the liaison CB 2 for a long time. She thanked him for his service to CB 2. Ms. Deller welcomed Joe Nocerino and Kat Brezler, both from the office of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards.

Kat Brezler, Representing the Queens Borough President's Office

Ms. Brezler provided the following update and announced:

- CB2 is in good hands with Joe Nocerino and that she is very grateful for his assistance.
- Board Membership application process has begun and reminded everyone that February 19, 2021 is the deadline for community board applications to be submitted. Ms. Brezler stated if anyone is up for reappointment and are in an odd year, to make sure they fill out the application. The applications are on-line, and it does not have to be notarized. She stated that if you are still seeking your Council Member's nomination to reach out to their council person.
- The roll out for Small Business Grants which is up to \$20,000.
- Thanked Chairperson Lisa Deller and District Manager Debra Markell Kleinert.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos asked if there would be confirmation concerning the application process. She also asked if she had to list references, as she did not see a place for references. Ms. Brezler stated that if you are up for reappointment you do not have to list references and if you are in good standing with the chair and with your attendance. She also reported that members will have to go in for Diversity Training.

Ms. Brezler stated that a confirmation email should follow once the application process is completed.

Joe Nocerino, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Mr. Nocerino provided the following update:

- Announced he is glad to be back and that he always enjoyed working with CB 2 and that he is here to serve CB 2.
- Announced he is the Parks and Transportation Liaison.

Ben Geremia, Representing Council Member Robert Holden

Mr. Geremia provided the following update and announced:

- Thanked all for their continued volunteerism and Council Member Holden wishes everyone well during these difficult times.

- Council Member Holden serves the people of the 30th Council District. If anyone needs any assistance, to please contact their office at: (718) 366-3900 or email: district30@council.nyc.gov.
- The pandemic is still affecting all of us and they are happy to see the vaccine roll out despite many hiccups. It is important to continue to wear a mask, social distance, have proper hygiene, and that we must remain vigilant and people should be getting tested often.
- Holding a self-swab test event on Monday, February 8, 2021 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm and Thursday, February 11, 2021 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at their office which is located at: 64-09 Dry Harbor Road, Middle Village. All are welcome.
- Partnered with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Beta NYC Director Noel Hidalgo at a press conference on the vaccine roll out. They learned that some of the bravest and best tech minds in City government were not asked to assist in the creation of the vaccinefinder.nyc website. This is alarming and the Council Member was disheartened to have learned this. The vaccine finder website for anyone who has tried is a glorified store locator. It does not find you an appointment or give you an opportunity to book it. It can take hours for someone to find an appointment. Council Member Holden plans to have a hearing on this issue to increase the pressure on the de Blasio administration to make the much-needed fixes.
- Hosting a virtual Conversation with Your Councilman event on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to join and you can visit all social media pages to learn how to register for this event.
- Next week, Council Member Holden's Bill Intro 2044 will be passing in City Council. Intro 2044 will extend the moratorium on business awning and signs for another two years from the date that the bill becomes law. It will also create a 100% discount on permit fees so that small businesses can make their signs and awnings legal. Small businesses are struggling and the last thing we need is a flood of DOB inspectors issuing thousands of dollars in fines.
- Mr. Geremia thanked all for their time and if anyone has any issues, concerns or feedback to contact their office at (718) 366-3900 or email: district30@council.nyc.gov.

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services

Mr. Espinosa provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone for the continued support from the community in the form of online donations. In addition, they have received numerous mask donations throughout the last several months, which has been an important part of PPE for their home care employees, clients, and employees.
- Thanked everyone for the contributions to the Food Pantry which continues to run strong. Staff take food to seniors and they help to reach out to those in need.
- UPK will be accepting applications soon for 3- and 4-year-old children. All this information maybe found on the website at: www.scs.nyc.org.
- Sunnyside Community Services held a Blood Drive on January 28, 2021 and 55 pints of blood were donated. They have held three or four blood drives in the past few months. NY Blood Center was appreciative and how SCS has assisted those in need. They will have additional blood drives in the future.
- Mr. Espinosa thanked everyone for their support.

- Mr. Espinosa discussed the New Yorker of the Week Bianca Cintron; Volunteer for Adult Day Services and that Sunnyside is very proud of her service.

Ray Webb, LIC Partnership

Mr. Webb reminded everyone to stay warm and stay safe.

Ahtzeri Campos, Representing NY State Senator Mike Gianaris

Ms. Campos provided the following update and announced:

- Their office is available for constituent help.
- The district office is currently closed for walk in visits and the staff is working remotely.
- They are happy to schedule phone calls for whatever may be needed.

Matthew Pitt, NYC Campaign Finance Board

Mr. Pitt provided a presentation on Ranked Choice Voting in New York City.

- Ranked Choice Voting is a new way for voters to elect their representatives. In NYC voters can rank up to 5 candidates in order of preference, instead of choosing just one. This gives voters more say in who wins, increases civility, and can lead to more diverse candidates winning.
- This was created in the 2019 Charter Revision Commission.
- It is effective January 1, 2021 and will be used in special and primary elections for city offices, all 5 city offices: Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, City Council. It is not used in general elections, federal or state races such as President, Congress or Governor, and not used in local races like District Attorney and Judgeships.
- Discussed how Ranked Choice Voting works.
- Mr. Pitt reported that more information about Ranked Choice voting may be found on the website at: www.voting.nyc.gov for general voting information about voting in NYC. If anyone is interested in information about Ranked Choice Voting they may visit: www.nycffb.info/rcb and www.nycffb.info/rcbfags and can also contact them through Twitter and Instagram. BOE is offering additional information on Ranked Choice Voting and Special Elections and pole site locator and they may be contacted at: @boenyc.
- If anyone is interested in training it is offered on Wednesday at 12:30pm and Thursday at 6:30pm on Thursday they have training for Ranked Choice Voting, you must send an email to Mr. Pitt and RSVP.

Mr. Pitt entertained questions and provided his email address if anyone had any questions or concerns: mpitt@nycffb.info or contact the Director of Partnerships and Outreach: Omar Suarez oswarze@nycffb.info. A copy of the presentation is attached (Attachment #1)

Mr. Pitt entertained questions.

Justin Green, Big Reuse

Mr. Green provided the following update and introduced Gil Lopez, Outreach Coordinator.

- Mr. Green provided a power point presentation and spoke about the following:

- They are an environmental non-profit organization.
- They are part of a citywide project called the NYC Compost Project.
- They basically compost on a community scale.
- They have been composting under the Queensboro Bridge for the last decade.
- The Big Reuse License Agreement with Parks ended December 31, 2020. Their current license agreement does not contain a renewal clause.
- Big Reuse has worked with Queens Parks in District 1, 2, 3 and 4 to compost Parks leaves and woodchips for almost a decade.
- Compost is important way to fight climate change.
- Can be used to green New York City to improve street tree beds.
- The site was under Parks control and they lobbied parks to get control of the site. Gave them a license agreement worked with DSNY. The cleaned it and landscaped it.
- They make compost and give it away.
- Council Member Van Bramer and other elected officials had a great opening in 2018 with over 200 people in attendance.
- 80% of the compost produced at the Queensbridge site is donated to Parks Horticulture or Green Thumb. They have built out community gardens and work with 1000 volunteers at the site.
- They have been on this site about four years and had a three-year license agreement which expired in December and got a 6-month extension and Parks said they must move. They have submitted letters and there was a city council oversight meeting with Council Member Van Bramer. They held a press event and a visioning meeting attended by Council Member Van Bramer and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. It was very well attended.
- They are requesting Parks find an alternative site as they wish to stay at this site.
- They are saying that they have decided to undertake long awaited improvements to Baby Bridge Park, which a strip of land near the Queensboro Bridge and Queens Bridge Houses.
- Parks is moving forward with the renovation and they are not renovating anything underneath the bridge, but they have an operations site north of the bridge that needs to be moved onto their site.
- Mr. Green stated they came to the Land Use Committee and the Community Board and are seeking a letter of support to stay where they are. Parks has extensive space under the Queens Borough Bridge that could be more efficiently used to allow them to stay.
- This is a Department of Sanitation funded program.
- They want to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Lopez provided an update about the site and composting.

- It is important that they stay and continue to be a part of the community.
- Seeking the Community Board's support.

Ms. Deller discussed the reopening of the 10th Street Walkway under the Bridge.

Ms. Lewandowski reported that she attended the press conference and stated that we need to build composting in every area. She inquired about the volume of the composting they process.

In response to a question by Tai McShane, Mr. Green stated they are DEC regulated and their compost person comes by to inspect. They won the Composter of the Year Award this year. Their staff is trained, and they are paid employees. They are part of a City funded program that has been around for 30 years and they are funded and managed by the DSNY.

Mr. Green reported they are a very clean composting site.

Mr. Lopez informed that he is a paid employee, and he does outreach for the organization. He reported the location is immaculate and they work with other composting locations, however they are almost at capacity and he is requesting more sites are built and that they are funded by the City. They are an international model and people come from all over the world to learn how to deal with organic waste.

Ms. Deller provided an update and reported there were 200 people at the visioning session for Baby Park and there was a lot of support for preserving in some way the composting site whether it is on the parking lot or this location and that it is incorporated into the design of the park.

Mary Torres reported that you would not even know there is a composting site there as it is maintained very well, and the site is very clean. She stated we need more of this and to find a way to get Big Reuse another location and more resources because this is the way we should be going.

Mr. Green and Mr. Lopez entertained questions.

Attendance

Total Board Members Present 37 Total Board Members Absent 9 Quorum Yes

Approval of the January 7, 2021 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Kenny Greenberg made a motion, and it was seconded by Tom Mituzas to approve the January 2021 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. All were in favor to approve the minutes with none opposed and one (1) abstention.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

Ms. Deller announced there were three deaths that affected the Community Board.

- Board Member Carol Terrano a long-time advocate for her community in Woodside passed away. Ms. Deller stated that Carol was an amazing lion for her community, and we will miss her.
- Former Board Member Mary English passed away. Mary was a very valued board member who participated for a long time on the board.
- Board Member Mohammed Choudhury Jewel's 21-year-old son passed away.

Badrun Khan provided a brief update about Mr. Jewel's son's passing. She reported that it was a major heart attack and that he was his only son. Ms. Khan stated this is a terrible loss for the community and asked everyone to pray for his wife family and his two other children.

- Ms. Deller requested a moment of silence.

- Ms. Deller stated there are many people suffering during these trying times and encouraged all to get vaccinated and to keep trying to get an appointment for openings for the vaccine.
- Thanked the Tech Committee for their great input and participation and for the contributions the Tech Committee has made. Ms. Deller announced Anatole Ashraf is the new Tech Committee Chair
- Ms. Deller reported that she participated at the Borough President Hearings on Fiscal Year 2022. She discussed that in our neighborhood, groups that testified, including the Flux Factory are going to open a new facility in CB 2 at the Gotham Building. They will be moving to CB 2. Sunnyside Community Services were there, Queens Council for the Arts, discussing the facility at the O'Connor capital projects building.
- The new intermediate school 429 located at 47-10 Barnett Avenue has begun construction. If anyone has any complaints about the site, please contact the CB 2 office.
- Ms. Deller provided an update on the conversation with the Councilmember on working on the Blissville Flagpole. The Council Member has expressed his support of the flagpole. There have been long discussions about whether Parks or DOT is responsible for the flagpole.
- Provided an update on the visioning sessions that she has attended as well as many of members of the board.
 - January 21, 2021 Woodside Memorial Plaza.
 - January 28, 2020 on Baby Park – There were about 200 participants at this meeting. There are a lot of needs for participatory engagement.
 - Public space and pedestrian improvements in Court Square
- Ms. Deller provided an update concerning a request from the last board meeting regarding total community complaints received at CB 2. CB2 had a total of 159 complaints for the month of January. 113 complaints were resolved and closed. 46 remain outstanding and CB 2 continues to follow up with each agency.
- Ms. Deller reported that she attended the Tenant's Meeting at Phipps houses. They have hired two new porters, and there was a discussion about maintenance and extermination.
- Ms. Deller discussed that it is election season and there are many people running for office or people supporting those running for office. She discussed the conflict of interest on political activities and using the CB 2 title on anything is inappropriate. CB 2 is a city agency, and all boardmembers must adhere to rules and regulations of the City of New York.
- Ms. Deller wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

The next Community Board 2 meeting will be Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:30pm and will be aZoom teleconference.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Kleinert provided the following update:

- Announced that CB 2 participated at the Borough President Hearings on Fiscal Year 2022 and that she highlighted important projects on our agenda.
- Attended the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and hearing (OATH Virtual conference sponsored by the Council Member).
- CB2 has been posting more information on our Facebook page and websites. The COVID 19 testing sites.
- We have been working closely with the Tech Committee and she thanked them.

Teal Delys, NYC Department of City Planning

Ms. Delys provided the following update:

- Phipps Public Hearing was held on January 20, 2021. The vote will occur on February 17, 2021. Written testimony can still be submitted through February 10, 2021 and it can be done through the DCP website or by mail.
- Upcoming ULURP Project – They are expecting that the 13-story mixed use residential proposal at 62-04 Roosevelt Avenue to certify February 16, 2021, however they will push back to March 1, 2021 to wrap up their materials on this.
- They expect the project for the Teamsters Commercial Proposal at 48-18 Van Dam Street to certify on March 1, 2021.

Ms. Deller asked how has City Planning been involved with Baby Park? Ms. Delys stated this is Parks project and will check with liaison for CB 1 and provide and update.

Ms. Delys entertained questions.

Land Use Committee Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- 23-10 Queens Plaza South is the Eagle Electric Building adjacent to the 7 train. Penny Lee, former City Planning rep is acting as a consultant for this project. They attended the January meeting to discuss the project. It does not have residential but has an additional height. They are seeking to amend the zoning map from an M1-5 R9 to an M1-6 R9. They will retain the same height and set back that are currently and establish an FAR of 15. It steps back from the street. It is a new model of industrial and office. They are working on design and there will be some community space about 2400 square feet. Ms. Deller stated they are looking for a community partner and that they are donating the space. There will be a conference space and they may be able to use this for community meetings and are working with 32BJ. They have reached an agreement with the union for construction. Penny Lee is open to suggestions and if anyone is interested in submitting them, they should contact CB 2.

Sheila Lewandowski asked if the donation of the community space is permanent and that it needs to be in writing.

- Ms. Deller reported that Big Reuse attended the Land Use Committee Meeting, and that Justin Green provided the same presentation he provided this evening. They are seeking a letter of support. The Committee voted to have the full board see the presentation and the committee made a recommendation to provide a letter of support for Big Reuse at Baby Park.
- At the visioning session, they were listening, and it is a question of where composting would go, and they have ideas about how the park needs to be designed and their initial rendering did not include composting. There is a lot of support from the community, advocates, elected officials for composting. They have a parking lot, and there was a discussion about where it would go and how to incorporate composting into the design.

A discussion followed.

Christine Hunter made a motion, and it was second by Karesia Batan to send a letter of support and to recommend a 10-year license agreement with the options for renewal to remain in the current site and for parks to find an alternative location if they need additional vehicular parking. All were in favor with 34 in favor of the motion; none opposed and no abstentions.

Arts & Cultural Committee Report

Mr. Greenberg provided the following update:

- Announced the guest speaker was Jack Bernatovicz, representing Council Member Van Bramer's office.
- Announced the Council Member's Open Culture Bill passed in December.
- Discussed two follow up bills that Mr. Bernatovicz presented.
- The Committee would like to draft a letter of support.
- Mr. Greenberg read Intro 2194 – which would require the Department of Cultural Affairs to conduct a study of the forces driving the displacement of cultural spaces in the city and means of combatting them and incentivizing the creation of new cultural spaces. The study would include the input of various constituencies from the arts, real estate, and affected communities as well as an assessment of policy solutions, such as the creation of an independent real estate holding company.
- Mr. Greenberg read Intro 2195 – which would require the Department of Cultural Affairs to establish a process by which artists, other than those who are applying for certification for the purpose of using a joint living-working space, could also apply to become recognized as certified artists. In addition, a certified artist would be eligible to obtain a New York City identity card which would display the cardholder's status as a certified artist.
- Mr. Greenberg discussed the Flux Factory will be guests at the next Arts & Cultural Committee.

Karesia Batan, Co-Chair, Arts & Cultural Committee provided the following update:

- Announced that Council Member Van Bramer's Office wanted feedback on these bills.
- Some of the feedback she had suggested in terms of the first bill is that she likes the direction but would like it to be more aggressive. She stated reconsideration on where this money could be going to push forward the needs of the artists. There is a particular section of the study that is dedicated to preserving and opening permanent space particularly for live art.
- For the second bill some suggestions she had is identification and easier access to insurance to be an artist's installing work on city's public space, better access to rehearsal space and equipment use and expanding open culture in terms of being able to collect revenue in more spaces when they are performing.
- Open Forum meeting last night with potential candidates for the district, which was an arts and culture forum. Directly heard from 10 of the candidates and their stance on arts and culture. Ms. Batan discussed the story of an artist named Mark who had a space on Vernon Blvd in LIC. Sadly, he felt unwelcomed by his business neighbors and landlord and felt he was being racially discriminated against and re-opened his gallery in Brooklyn.

- Ms. Batan reported that we would love to have his gallery back as contributed to the community and featured black art in his gallery and held open events. We would like to invite him to the next Arts and Cultural Committee meeting to try to help him connect to a space here and what we can do as a community to assist him and bring the artwork back to the community.
- Looking for more little library boxes, if anyone has access or knows a contact to let CB 2 know. She has tried to reach out to people concerning abandoned newspaper boxes on the street and asked if anyone had any leads on this.
- The calendar has been sent to the web developer and anyone that has arts and culture happenings can submit it via a form on the CB 2 website and then it would be populated on the Calendar.
- Ms. Batan encouraged all to please send arts and cultural happenings to the CB 2 email and Debbie will send it out and post to Facebook.

Ms. Lewandowski stated that she was very disappointed that she knew nothing about the forum and that if something like this comes up to send it to the CB 2 office.

In response to a concern raised by Christine Hunter, Mr. Berkowitz stated that there could be in our support resolution something that is avoiding an onerous certification process which could potentially keep some people out from certification.

Kenny Greenberg made a motion was made and it was seconded to send a letter of support for intro 2194 and intro 2195 in principle and that we look forward to going in and furthering a dialogue discussing the details of the foundation of these bills and that we have specific concerns about the equitability of the certification process and that we want to insure some equitability. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

Transportation Committee Report

Tom Mituzas, Co-Chair provided the following update:

Reported that DOT provided a presentation on a bike lane that will replace the temporary one that was put in on Northern Blvd. from 41ST through Broadway to 60th Street. There are benefits to cyclists and pedestrians. Want to make sure there are additional safety measures for cyclists and pedestrians in the area.

- Announced that he attended a visionary session last night for the Court Square area for what is coming there and that there will be presentation to the Board possibly in April which includes Court Square Park, Thomson Avenue, Rafferty Square, and additional areas for pedestrians.
- Encouraged everyone to visit the CB 2 website to get more updates.
- If there is anything people want the committee to advocate for, they may send their comments to CB 2, as they relate to Transportation issues.
- Provided an update on the proposed bike lane in Blissville. From the Kosciuszko Bridge to the Greenpoint Avenue to Borden Avenue, since the Kosciuszko Bridge had the pedestrian cyclist path created, they have seen cyclists and pedestrians form their own path coming from Laurel Hill Boulevard to Review Avenue. He would like to see a greenway connecting the Kosciuszko to the Greenpoint Avenue bridge all the way to Boden Avenue.

City Services & Public Safety Committee Report

Ms. Deller stated we are in the process of posting previous minutes on the website.

Health and Human Services & Education Committee Report

Tai McShane provided the following update:

- Announced that Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services was the guest speaker. She discussed COVID and the elderly in our community. There are some volunteer opportunities packaging supplies, so if anyone is interested, they should visit their website.
- Next month, Dr. Darlene Williams Women in Need will be the guest speaker.

Environment Committee Meeting

Dorothy Morehead provided the following update:

- Reported the DEP attended the Environment Committee Meeting and they presented the plans for two major projects in CB 1 on 37TH Avenue behind the BJ's building and it ends at 48th Street and that will be an access to a valve chamber where the third water tunnel comes into our community and then goes out to different mains throughout Queens. Ms. Morehead requested the material be forwarded to the Board Members.
- It will be under the 37th Avenue site and everything of DEP's will be at that site. It will be 100 feet deep and there will be a lot of blasting and the project will start in two years. The contract started on Monday and it is a long project and was a long time in planning. It is a very long project and 30 years in the making.
- Ms. Morehead announced that she will be using this as a bookmark for serving on the Environmental Committee, as she joined it the first year she was on the board, as it was the first project she saw. She announced that she will be resigning from the Board. She thanked all the people she has served with and stated has enjoyed the time spent on Community Board 2.

Ms. Deller announced that Ms. Morehead has served the board in a very special way and that she paid attention to many of the environmental issues in the community and will be sorely missed. She thanked her for all she does in the community and for all she has done on the CB 2 Environmental Committee.

Public Comment

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion, and it was seconded by Tom Mituzas to adjourn the meeting.
Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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